



SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Beaumont Children's Hospital

Children's Hospital of Michigan/Detroit Medical Center

Henry Ford Health System

Hurley Medical Center

University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital and Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Michigan Section, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Mott Children's Health Center

PARTNERING MEMBERS

Calhoun County Public Health Department

Health Department of Northwest Michigan

Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan

Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health

Michigan School Health Coordinators' Association

Michigan State Medical Society

School-Community Health Alliance of Michigan

Washtenaw County Public Health

GENERAL MEMBERS

Maternal-Newborn Nurse Professionals of Southeastern Michigan

Michigan Association of School Nurses

Michigan Section, Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Written comments for House Health Policy Committee

Re: HB 4235

Dear Chairman Callton and members of the Committee:

The Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health is comprised of large hospital systems, statewide organizations and smaller local entities to provide a collective voice in shaping policy and legislation that impact maternal and child health in Michigan.

We support House Bill 4235 to require that all maternal deaths - those during pregnancy or within one year of a pregnancy – be reported to allow for a review of the circumstances of the death.

Unfortunately, maternal mortality is trending in the wrong direction nationally and in our state. It is imperative that we do all we can to better understand the underlying causes and factors so that we can work to prevent deaths or near deaths that can lifelong health consequences. While the overall numbers of maternal deaths are small it means that reporting of every death is important for a complete, accurate analysis.

There are amazing people and organizations committed to combating the maternal mortality problem in Michigan but they must have the best, most accurate data on which to base proposed changes in medical care, services and supports for pregnant and postpartum women.

The need to prevent is driven by what most of us can only imagine. The loss of a new mother is one of life's most traumatic experiences -- not only for her baby, but for her other children. The rippling impact of such a loss on a spouse or partner, her extended family and her community means we must do everything possible. Michigan has a robust maternal mortality reporting process already in place that we must fully utilize so that the data and corresponding change it brings can prevent additional losses.

Thank you to Rep. Darany for his interest in maternal mortality reporting and to this committee for taking up this important bill.

Sincerely,

Amy U. Zaagman
Executive Director